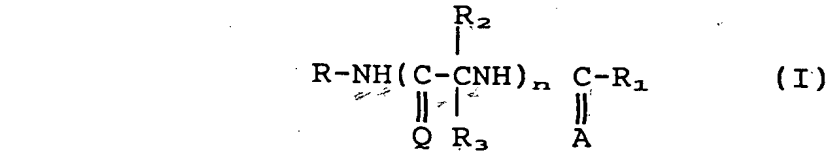
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula



(I)

or the N-oxide thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein

R is aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclic lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkyl, wherein R is unsubstituted or is substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group;

R_1 is hydrogen or lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl lower alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic lower alkyl, heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cylcoalkyl, lower alkyl, and R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing substituent or at least one electron donating substituent;

R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl, SO_3^- or Z-Y wherein R_2 and R_3 may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

Z is O, $S(O)_a$, NR_4, ~~PR_4~~, mercaptoalkyl, alkylthio; or a chemical bond;

Y is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, halo, heterocyclic or heterocyclic lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl lower alkyl and Y may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group provided that Z is a chemical bond only when Y is halo; or

ZY taken together is $NR_4NR_5R_7$, NR_4OR_5, ONR_4R_7, ~~OPR_4R_5, PR_4OR_5~~ SNR_4R_7, NR_4SR_7, SPR_4R_5, ~~PR_4SR_7, $NR_4PR_5R_6$, $PR_4NR_5R_7$~~, NR_4C-R_5 (‖O), $SC-R_5$ (‖O), NR_4C-OR_5 (‖O), $SC-OR_5$ (‖O), $NR_4C-NR_5R_6$ (‖O), $NR_4C-NR_5S(O)_aR_6$ (‖O), $NR_4C-NR_5R_6$ (‖S), $NR_4CMNR_5COR_6$ (‖Q, ‖A), or $C-NH_2$ (‖S);

R_4, R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl, wherein R_4, R_5 and R_6 may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group;

R_7 is R_6, $COOR_8$ or COR_8;

R_8 is hydrogen or lower alkyl or aryl lower alkyl;

n is 1-4 and

a is 1-3

M is a lower alkylene chain, and A and Q are independently O or S with the provisio that at least one of A or Q is S.

2. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein A is S.

3. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein A and Q are S.

4. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein one of R_2 and R_3 is H.

5. The compound according to Claim 4 wherein one of R_2 and R_3 is H and the other is heterocyclic.

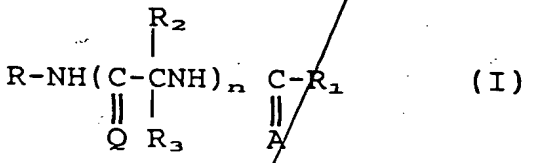
6. The compound according to Claim 5 wherein heterocyclic is furyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazoyl, epoxy, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, tetraxolyl, triazolyl, or oxadiaxoyl.

7. The compound according to Claim 6 wherein heterocyclic is furyl, pyrrolyl, pyrozolyl, or pyridyl.

8. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein one of R_2 and R_3 is H and the other is Z-Y.

9. The compound according to Claim 8 wherein Z-Y is N,O-dimethylhydroxyamino, N-methylhydroxyamino N-methyoxyamino, ethylamino or methylamino or hydrazino.

10. A compound of the formula



(I)

or the N-Oxide thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein

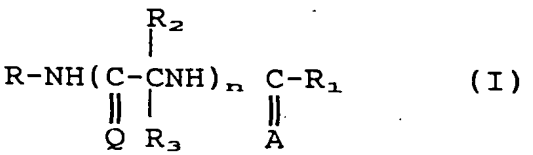
R is aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclic lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkyl, wherein R is unsubstituted or is substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group;

R_1 is hydrogen or lower alkyl and R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing substituent or at least one electron donating substituent;

one of R_2 and R_3 is hydrogen, and the other is SO_3^-.

11. The compound according to Claim 10 wherein Q and A are both 0.

12. A compound of formula



(I)

or the N-Oxide thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein

R is aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclic lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkyl, wherein R is unsubstituted or is substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group;

R_1 is hydrogen or lower alkyl and R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing substituent or at least one electron donating substituent;

R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, or Z-Y wherein R_2 and R_3 may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

Z is $S(O)_a$, mercaptoalkyl, or alkylthio

Y is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclic lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl lower alkyl and Y may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group provided that when Y is halo, Z is a chemical bond; or

ZY taken together is $NR_4\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-NR_5$, $NR_4\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-NR_5$,

$SC\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{R_5}$, $NR_4\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-OR_5$, $NR_4\overset{\overset{S}{\|}}{C}-NR_5R_6$, $NR_4CMNR_5-\overset{\overset{A}{\|}}{\underset{\underset{Q}{\|}}{C}}-OR_6$

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$\overset{\overset{S}{\|}}{C}-NH_2$ or $NR_4\ CNR_5-S(O)_aR_6$ $\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{}$

R_4, R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl, wherein R_4, R_5 and R_6 may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group;

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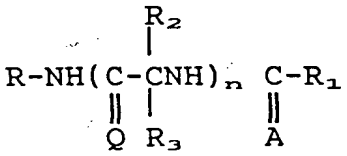
n is 1-4 and

a is 1-3

M is lower alkylene, and A and Q are independently O or S with the provisio that at least one of R_2 and R_3 is Z-Y.

13. The compound of Claim 12 wherein A and Q are both oxygen.

14. A compound of the formula



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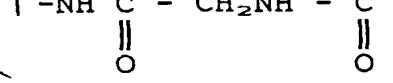
or the N-Oxide thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein

R is aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclic lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkyl, wherein R is unsubstituted or is substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group;

R_1 is hydrogen or lower alkyl and R_1 is unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing substituent or at least one electron donating substituent;

R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, amino, pyrrolyl, N, N-dimethylamino, morpholinyl, pyrazinyl, -NH OCH_3, methylhydroxyamino, (N,O-)dimethylhydroxyamino



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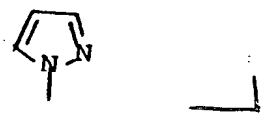

or epoxy,

and n is 1-4, provided that at least one of R_2 and R_3 is other than hydrogen

15. The compound according to Claim 14 wherein Q and A are both O.

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16. The compound according to any one of Claims 1-15 wherein n is 1.

17. The compound according to any one of Claims 1-15 wherein R is lower arylalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group.

18. The compound according to Claim 17 wherein R is benzyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group.

19. The compound according to Claim 18 wherein R is unsubstituted benzyl or 

20. The compound according to any of Claims 1-15 wherein R_1 is lower alkyl.

21. The compound according to Claim 20 wherein R_1 is methyl.

22. A compound selected from the group consisting of ethyl 2-acetamido-2-aminoacetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(methylamino)acetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(N,N-dimethylamino)acetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(4-morpholine)-acetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(N-anilino)acetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(N-(3-pyrazolylamino))acetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(N-hydroxyamino)acetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(N-(N-methylhydroxyamino))acetate, ethyl 2-acetamido-2-(N-(N,O-dimethylhydroxyamino))acetate, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-aminoacetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(methylamino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(ethylamino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-anilino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2(N-(3-pyrazolylamino))acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N,N-dimethylamino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-hydroxyamino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-hydroxyamino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N^2-phenylhydrazino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N^2-benzyloxycarbonylhydrazino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-

2-phenoxyacetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(methylmercapto)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(ethylmercapto)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-methoxyamino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-(N-methylhydroxyamino))acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-(N,O-dimethylhydroxyamino))acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-isoxazolidino)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-hydroxyacetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(ethylmercapto)acetamide, 2,2-diacetamido-N-benzylacetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-trifluoracetamidoacetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N,N,N-trimethylammonium)acetamide tetrafluoroborate, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(ethylmercapto)acetamide-S-oxide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(S-ethylmercapto)acetamide-S-oxide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(ethanesulfonyl)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N,N,N-trimethylammonium)acetamide tetrafluoroborate, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(1-pyrrole)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(1-imidazole)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(1-pyrazole)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2(1-(1,2,4-triazole))acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2(1-tetrazole))acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-pyridylacetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-pyridyl acetamide N-oxide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(S-thiophenoxy)-acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(tetrahydrofuran)acetamide, methyl α-acetamido-2-methyl-2-furanacetate, α-acetamido-2-methyl-2-furanacetic acid, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-methyl-2-furanacetamide, α-thioacetamido-N-benzyl-2-furanacetamide, α-thioacetamido-N-benzyl-2-furanthioacetamide, α-acetamido-N-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-2-furanacetamide, α-acetamido-N-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-2-furanacetamide, α-acetamido-N-(1-oxo-3-pyridinylmethyl)-2-furanacetamide, α-acetamido-N-(1-oxo-4-pyridinylmethyl)-2-furanacetamide, R(-)α-acetamido-N-(4-fluorobenzyl)-2-furanacetamide, R(-)α-acetamido-N-(4-trifluoromethylbenzyl)-2-furanacetatmide, methyl[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]carbomate,

phenyl[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]carbomate, 1-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-3-methylurea], 1-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-3-phenylurea], 1-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-3-benzenesulfonylurea], 1-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-3-methylthiourea], 1-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]-3-phenylthiourea], N-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]phthalamic acid], 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(N-succinimidyl)acetamide], benzyl N-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]malonamate, ethyl N-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]glycinate, benzyl N-[acetamido(benzylcarbamoyl)methyl]glycinate, N-[acetamido(benzylcarbomoyl)methyl]glycine, 2-acetamide-N-benzyl-2-(1-pyrrole)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(1-pyrazole)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(1-imidazole)acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(1-(1,2,4-triazole))acetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(1-tetrazole))acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-1-(dimethylsulfamoyl)imidazole-4-acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-4-imidazole acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-imidazole acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-5-(tetrazole)acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-3-(1,2,4-triazole)acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(carboxamide oxime)acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(carboxamide oxime-(O-acetate))-acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-3-(1,2,4-oxadiazole)acetamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(thioamide)acetamide), 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-vinylacetamide, 2-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-epoxyacetamide, potassium 2-acetamido-N-benzylacetamide-2-sulfonate, 2-acetamido-4-pentenic acid-N-benzylamide, α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(2-oxazole)-acetamide, and α-acetamido-N-benzyl-2-(2-thiazole)-acetamide.

23. An anti-convulsant composition comprising an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound from any one of Claims 1-15 and 22 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

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24. An anti-convulsant composition comprising an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound from Claim 16 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

25. An anti-convulsant composition comprising an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound from Claim 17 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

26. An anti-convulsant composition comprising an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound from Claim 18 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

27. An anti-convulsant composition comprising an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 19 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

28. An anti-convulsant composition comprising an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 20 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

29. An anti-convulsant composition comprising an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 21 and a pharmaceutical carrier therefor.

30. A method of treating CNS disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound according to any one of Claims 1-15 and 22.

31. A method of treating CNS disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 16.

32. A method of treating CNS disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 17.

33. A method of treating CNS disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 18.

34. A method of treating CNS disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 19.

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35. A method of treating CNS disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 20.

36. A method of treating CNS disorders in an animal comprising administering to said animal an anti-convulsant effective amount of a compound of Claim 21.